The King of Corea and His People. The last named figure represents This King Ye-hui is said to be the heavy weights which the amiable, affable and learned; in | Corean coolie is used to carry and fact, the well known definition of his ingenious contrivance for an Irish politician at the hands of lightening his burden. In a couna rival has been applied to him: "a try almost destitute of wheeled charming old gentleman for an vehicles and even of roads passable afternoon tea party." On the by beasts of burden, "the strength other hand, his Queen, whose bar- of the nation," writes a resident of barous assassination in her own | Seoul, "has gone into the coolie's palace has foully stained the rec- shoulder." We often see him ord of Japan in Corea, was a woman of fine character and of Atlas lifting the world, Mrs. marked ability, wielding a power- Bird Bishop, the well known trav tul political influence somewhat eller, who made a four months' similar to that of the Dowager stay in Seoul, told me recently Empress of China. The King's that the Corean under happier conbrother was a conspirator in the shameful treachery that compassed | lady has visited in Russia a settle. her death. The succession of the | ment of some 16,000 of this people Crown Prince, a youth of little intelligence, is very doubtful; the escape famine thirty years ago, rather that his father is opposing | and she found the men hard workthe reforms - governmental, educational and social - so sorely in comfortable English farms. needed in his domain, yet stigmatized by the conservative party as "yang ban" -educational nonsense. And, truly, in Corea, as in land occupies, at least in theory, China, the well nigh omnipotent | the subordinate position assigned "p'ung-sok" (established custom), her in the Orient at large, based, as like a death dealing Juggernaut, in China, on a strange dualistic crushes down all stirrings of na- philosophy, according to which all tional life and progress. Among nature is ranged in contrasting the most potent elements and un | couples-heaven and earth, light healthiest influences of this con- and darkness, strength and weakservative coercion is the traditional ancestral worship. The female. A bride may be pur mourner grovels in the dust in chased for a few dollars, a visit token of his degradation, viewing from her suitor on a white horse, it a personal sin that his parent and four genuflexions. Yet does should have died, and his unclean- the Corean woman occupy a very liness on the occasion is the meas- | important place in domestic life ure of his remorse. The Corean Her natural character is marked centre of domestic interest is, not by energy and perseverance. his home, but the grave of his dead, which is spread with food, smokes and "koo-ling" ("enjoys visited with wailings, regarded as scenery"), she swings her washing a pilgrim shrine; while any inno- sticks, cooks the family rice, works vation on "p'ung sok" is a flagrant at all needed tailoring while the insult to the memory of his pro- bouse rings with her cheery voice. The city of Seoul (which means | her liege lord, in the struggle with

simply "capital") stands on hilly starvation, and often her industry ground, and the wall inclosing it, several miles long and in some Recent statutory changes have places thirty feet high, winds up wrought some improvement in the and down precipitous slopes. Within this wall stands Mount cannot be compelled to marry Nam-Zam (South Hill), from under sixteen years of age; and whose summit, until the recent introduction of the telegraph, the torth only in the well curtained King was kept informed of the palanquin, the common women important occurrences now walk about freely, though all throughout the country by means but the humblest class have the of an ingenious system of fire sig- lace partly screened. nals, in communication with similarly appointed stations on all the highest peaks of the kingdom. The palace inhabited by the monarch until his late retreat, is protected by a high wall encircled by the sense that we in Europe are a continuous moat, crossed before each entrance by a stone bridge. Within these royal precincts are a winter and summer palace. A traveller permitted to view the latter in winter, describes how on literature, and they hold a vague a frozen lake stood a large white sort of tradition that they are demarble platform, on which rose the summer audience hall, an up- | Their Hebrew-Persian literature, per story of scarlet laquer surmounted a white marble collonade and as late as October, 1895 and beautifully ornamented with the learned Dr. Neubauer, with all brilliantly colored wood carvings, his scholarly accuracy, could only a white marble bridge spanning the water to this fairy-like island platform. But the squalid poverty of a ritual and a literature of their the buildings and filthiness of the footways are the main features of the Corean capital. The principal street, forming the avenue to the palace, is of such breadth that two rows of thatched houses are built down its centre. When, however, Ye-hui pays his bi-annual proces. sional visit to the tombs of his ancestors, these erections must all be removed; and as little, if any, notice of the royal intention is given, this process of clearance is a scene of indescribable confusion, as household goods, clothing and cooking utensils are removed in armfuls by the owners and friends, all talking and screaming the while. When this operation is accomplished, frequently howling and shouting signalize the running across or along the cleared highway of some heedless spectator pursued by angry soldiers, at whose hands the offender is liable to be beaten senseless or dead; in | The roads to Turkestan and Persia either case the body would be carelessly cast into a drain canal the Caspian Sea, There are two along the road. On the occasion | great ports of embarkation -Baku, of such a royal progress, there are the City of Fire, and Petrovsk. duplicate state sedan chairs to Each is the terminus of a great line baffle the calculation of any possible murderous enemies of the caucasian Railway, which begins King. On each side of this broad at Batoum and is only about a avenue stand the one storied resi thousand miles long. Petrovsk has dences of nobles, princes and in the last two years become the other Corean aristocrats. Since | end of the great trunk line of Rusthe opening of the country in 1883 sia, 3,000 versts farther than Mosby a commercial treaty with Japan, cow. From Calais to Petrovsk foreign legation residences-Japanese, American, English, French, German and Russian-have route to the Caspian. It is overland arisen in the capital. A curious object in the city is the famous tower based on a huge tortoise, which animal symbolizes longevity in Buddish legend, and is conspicuous in a well known Chinese | flat of the steppe. The rest is mopicture of the god Pwan-ku creating the universe. The Government officials of

Corea, as of China, are the chief Grosni, a few hours off, have made obstacles to the moral and material it quite important as a commercial improvement of their country. centre. Tyranny and corruption seem to characterize this whole community. "Do you consider your laboring classes industrious?" I aked Mr. Yun, "Poor creatures!" he replied. "What incentive have they to industry? If they earn more than enough to keep body and soul to gether, some well-to-do official is sure to discover it and as sure to invent an accusation against the man from whose penal consequence he can only escape by the sacrifice of his little savings, which go to pander to the vices of his oppressor." Consequently, while the land is richly endowed by nature—not only beautiful in scenery of hills and waters, but fertile in soil, capable of every product found within the temperate zone (rice, cereals, vegetables, fruits of every kind); abundantly supplied with fine timber, and rich in mineral stores of gold, silver, copper, coal; and all this within an area of not more than 80,000 square miles-scarcity of supply and grinding poverty are universal. The cost of living is twice as high rier, the pedlar of earthenware, could supply their actual needs for about five shillings a month.

carrying a load which reminds one ditions becomes a new man. This

ing and their homes prosperous as

There were no girls' schools in

Corea until lady missionaries took

up their cause; for woman in that

ness, virtue and iniquity, male and

While her husband sits and

Never does she lose heart, as does

sustains the ruin-threatened home

Corean woman's social lot; she

while the ladies of higher rank go

PERSIAN JEWS. - From the Black

Sea to Calcutta, from Bagdad to

Kai-fong-too, we meet with Persian

Jews. That is to say Persian, in

"German." They worship, or used

to worship, in the Persian Rite;

they speak Persian; they translate

Persian into Hebrew charac-

ters; they have a Hebrew-Persian

scended from Persian ancestry.

however, is almost unknown.

own, which we at present know

only through a few manuscripts of

the Bibliotheque Nationale, the

perial Library of St. Petersburg."

to us as their lost brethern of the

Far East. And yet they are so

near that in something less than

six week, and in two successive

summer vacations, I have been

able to visit them in their old world

homes of Teheran, and Samar-

kand, and Bokhara, and bring

away a hundred manuscripts and

more to fill up a gap in our litera-

ture, or at least in our libraries.

do not diverge till one reaches

of railway. Baku ends the Trans-

takes about seven days. It is the

shortest, cheapest and nastiest

throughout, and in Europe all the

time. Only for a few hours in the

last day does one get a distant

glimpse of the great peaks of the

notony exemplified. Petrovsk it-

self is deadly duil. But the railway

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is his native arena, and if industrious

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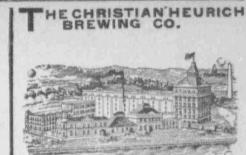
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